The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the judicial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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EVERY 19-YEAR-OLD BOY FORCED TO BEAR ARMS

Washington, Aug. 9.—A three-months' compulsory military training for every 19-year-old boy is provided in a bill prepared by the war department and introduced in the senate by Mr. Wadsworth, chairman of the senate military affairs committee. Every youth will be compelled to register and the machinery used will be similar to that used to enforce the draft during the war.

Another bill has been introduced jointly by Senator Chamberlain and Congressman Kahn which provides compulsory six-months' military training for all 18-year-old youths. The war department bill provides an army with a war strength of 1,250,000 men. The active force of this army would be 520,000 regulars, while the remainder would be young men who had taken the compulsory training.

Exemption from training would be given only to members of the regular army and navy, honorably discharged soldiers and sailors and members of the coast guard, marines actually engaged in the service, and persons permanently physically, mentally or morally unfit for any military service whatever." While in training the young men would receive no pay but their expenses would be borne by the government. In the case of youths having dependents authority would be given to pay the dependents an amount equal to the average monthly amount received by them for support during the preceding six months, provided this does not exceed $50 a month.

When a youth completes his three months' training he "shall be classified for service in war in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the president."

HYSTERICAL WAVE RECEDES.

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Aug. 9.—The hysterical wave of one-big-unionism is receding in Canada, declares the Edmonton Free Press which states that the central body of this city refused to be stampeded into the o. b. u. movement and by the exercise of foresight performed a task which other central bodies find it necessary to do now.

"The net result of the whole affair in Canada," says this labor publication, "merely proves that the o. b. u. idea of general strike, of complete cessation of all industrial activity, is economically unsound, and is not a practical scheme for attaining the desired ends of labor. The general strike is impossible because the other fellow controls the food store houses and can eat three square meals a day while labor starves. It is impracticable because all society—including women and children—suffer while the fight is on. And last but not least it is impossible because the rest of society will not permit it. Neither will the state permit it. If union men persist in refusing to turn a wheel industrially, the remainder of society will do the job for them. Self preservation is the first law of nature. Because of these irrefutable facts the o. b. u. was doomed to failure at the outset, and already it is recognized generally not as the one big union but as the one big failure."

URGES LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Washington, Aug. 9.—"The proposed league of nations is the strongest power that has ever been established to maintain peace on the basis of reason, knowledge and justice," said John H. Walker, former president of the Illinois state federation of labor, in a statement in which he urges the ratification of the treaty of peace.

"It is true," he continued, "that there is not a complete guarantee that there will be no future wars, but the league of nations is as nearly complete as practical men could provide under present circumstances. The experience of the future will permit of improvements.

"Under the provisions of the league of nations we would not be bound by any act of the league that our own representatives do not vote for and we can withdraw at will by serving two years' notice. During these two years we are not bound by any action of the league.

"If ratified, the league of nations will be the greatest accomplishment of all time on the part of human beings for peace and progress."

WANT HIGHER WAGE.

Reading, Pa., Aug. 9.—Every section of the state was represented at a meeting of cigar makers' representatives, who have agreed to submit the following demands to employers:

Fifty per cent increase; 44-hour week of five days of eight hours and four hours on Saturday; right to report grievances to shop committees; no discrimination against unionists; equalization of pay in dull seasons and cash pay every week.

Tampa, Fla., Aug. 9.—To enforce a 25 per cent wage increase nearly 7,000 cigar makers have suspended work. Several thousand other employes are idle because of the strike. A few manufacturers have granted the demand, but a majority of the employers insist that a 10 per cent advance is all that they can afford.

UNION SHOP FOR BAKERS.

South Amboy, N. J., Aug. 9.—Bakery proprietors have signed a union shop agreement with the Bakers union. Substantial wage increases are included.

Dubuque, Iowa, Aug. 9.—A new agreement has been secured by the recently-organized Bakers' union. The work day is 8½ hours for machine work and 9 1-2 hours for hand work. Journeymen will be paid $30 a week and foremen $33. When women do the same kind of work as men they will receive men's rates.

SECURE UNION SHOP.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 9.—For 15 years four large cabinet making concerns in this city have operated on a non-union basis, but have finally signed union shop agreements with the carpenters' district council. One manager said his experience during the war convinced him that union shop methods and union mechanics were the best.

NEW CENTRAL BODY.

Elkins, W. Va., Aug. 9.—Trade unionists have organized the Randolph county central labor union and will affiliate with the A. F. of L.

AMERICA'S FIRST NEED IS WELL FED FAMILIES

Philadelphia, Aug. 9.—America's first need is well-fed families, is a summary of the North American's editorial on malnutrition in this country.

"The truth is," says this paper, "that this nation today faces, in malnutrition, a more dangerous foe than any armed force the world could muster. This truth showed its ugly head when one-third of the men called in the drafts were rejected for physical defects due chiefly to nutritional lacks in childhood. Now its equally ugly body is being bared to public gaze by a government which is waking up to the menace of malnutrition.

"The draft revelations led to further investigation. It seemed strange that so large a percentage of our young men should be physically unfit at a time of life when they ought to be at best. In the early twenties one is less than 10 years beyond childhood. And childhood—in theory, at least—is the health-building time of life. Yet American childhood is not that in anything like the measure it should be.

"In fact, 5,000,000 of our boys and girls today are suffering from malnourishment.

"We have some 25,000,000 children, so this means that one in every five is being handicapped at the source of strength and usefulness by wrong nourishment—too little food, too much food, or lack of right food.

"How did we come to find this out? Well, last year was children's year—planned and carried out by the children's bureau of the federal department of labor—and in every part of the country the health and surroundings of children were given careful attention by a host of volunteer investigators, who reported to Washington.

"When these reports were gone over it was seen that malnutrition was working more harm among young Americans than anything else.

"Years ago a notorious Hun said that what you want to put into a nation you first must put into its schools. That may do for ideals. But for power of mind to appreciate ideals and power of body to apply them practically it is better to say that what you would put into a nation you first must put into the stomachs of the children."

PRESS MAY CRITICISE.

New York, Aug. 9.—Newspapers have the right to criticise public officials for their acts and to deny them that right would "seriously impair the value and force of a democratic government," according to a decision by Supreme Court Justice Greenbaum. The decision was made in the suit for $25,000 for alleged libel begun by former Congressman Bennett against a local newspaper. The newspaper attacked the methods of feeding immigrants who are detained for investigation on leaving the ship. Bennett was general counsel for the contractors. While in congress he was one of the leaders against any restrictions of immigration.

In dismissing the case, the court said:

"Accusation against the public official, whether they be specific or general are not libelous, per se, when they are solely based upon official acts which he may lawfully do.

"The value and force of a representative democratic government would be seriously impaired if its officials, who are merely servants of the people may not be freely criticised in their official acts by those who indirectly employ them. The comments may at times be unwarranted, extreme and unjust, but if they be limited to acts which do not involve illegal action or criminality they are permissible comments."

GETS WHAT WORKERS GET.

Memphis, Tenn., Aug. 9.—Edward T. Leech, editor of the Memphis Press, was escorted to jail—where he will serve 10 days for contempt of court—by a brass band, an automobile and a delegation of prominent citizens, who lustily demanded free press. The editor was charged with criticising public officials when he discussed politics in a general way. The editor's friends point to the process by which the editor was jailed—without jury trial and by the court that combines itself into judge, law maker and executioner.

This evil has been combatted for years by organized workers who have been jailed by the same methods used in Editor Leech's case.

Trade unionists are hopeful that the latest exhibition of injunction power will be remembered by prominent citizens who have heretofore turned a deaf ear when the workers urged that American rights be maintained.

MAKES A DISCOVERY.

New York, Aug. 9.—The United Cigar Stores company, which operates a chain of cigar stores throughout the country, has adopted a Sunday closing policy for all stores except those located at summer resorts.

In large advertisements in the daily press the company announces that "Sunday should be a day of rest." The company made this discovery simultaneous with the growing unrest of its clerks and their discussion of trade union methods.

Recently several hundred clerks employed by this concern in Chicago struck, and this "bad example" is liable to be copied by others.

NEW MINIMUM WAGE.

St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 9.—The new minimum wage for women workers, minors and apprentices in this state, is now in effect. In cities of 5,000 population or over the rate will be $11 for a week of 48 hours and 23 cents an hour for additional hours for women workers, with a graduated scale for apprentices during the first nine months. In municipalities of less than 5,000 population the rate will be $10.25 a week and 21½ cents for additional hours. The new schedule applies to all occupations.

STEEL MEN ORGANIZE.

Wheeling, W. Va., Aug. 9.—Employes of the Wheeling Steel and Iron company have organized. They are chartered by the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

SHOE WORKERS UNITE.

Hannibal, Mo., Aug. 9.—Boot and shoe workers in this city have organized and affiliated with the bona fide trade union movement.

SERVICE VS. PROFITS IS RAILROAD ISSUE

Washington, Aug. 9.—"The people must decide between service and profits in the settlement of the 'railroad question,'" said Frank Morrison, secretary of the A. F. of L., in urging the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce to favor the Sims bill, which embodies the railroad employes' solution of the railroad problem.

"In all discussions of this question," said the trade unionist, "it would be well to bear in mind that quasi-public corporations are created for service and not for profit. A long line of decisions, from the Supreme Court of the United States down, have invariably held that the fundamental purpose of these corporations is to serve the public and that they are only entitled to a fair remuneration.

"Hardly any one will deny that under private management the railroads have been financial footballs and that they have been directed by interests whose wreckage of numerous railroad systems is common knowledge. This wreckage has been accompanied by a debauching of legislatures and other political activity that tested democratic institutions.

"The times call for new arrangements in the management of properties that are only made possible by the public's consent.

"The passage of the Sims bill will re-establish the theory that railroads should be operated for public service rather than for private profit.

"Aside from the application of democracy in these properties, and their handling by practical railroad men, the Sims bill will squeeze all fictitious values out of these properties. This will affect living costs and reduce charges the public now meet, for then it will no longer be necessary to compel the railroads to earn dividends on millions of dollars of watered stock."

"HIGH" WAGES NOT HIGH.

Indianapolis, Aug. 9.—"It is quite interesting to hear some persons talk about the 'high' wages of the coal miners of the country," says the United Mine Workers' Journal, official magazine of the United Mine Workers of America.

"Did you ever hear of the man who wrote a letter home from the hot lands of Arizona to tell the folks about the terribly high temperature of that region? He said: 'It is 120 in the shade and no shade.'

"And now about the miner's wages. He gets $5 a day, when he works. But what does that amount to when he has no work?

"It is easy enough to talk about 'high wages' for the miner and thus mislead the public into believing that miners are making money hand over fist. But when these people talk about 'high wages' for the miners they should be fair enough to tell the public, also, that the miners have been working only from one to three days a week and that in many places the mines have been closed down entirely for weeks or months.

"It is merely another case of 120 in the shade and no shade."

HEADS WORLD LABOR BODY.

Washington, Aug. 9.—According to an Associated Press cable, the world conference of trade unionists at Amsterdam has elected William A. Appleton president of the new international trade union movement. He was nominated by President Gompers. The new official is secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Great Britain. During the war he toured the United States as a member of a trade union commission that represented the workers of his country.

Leon Jouhaux, secretary of the French Federation of Labor (Confederation Generale du Travail), was chosen first vice president, defeating Carl Legien of Germany.

According to press reports President Gompers stated that "Americans may accept office in the new organization when the South American membership becomes better organized."

The new movement takes up the work of the International Federation of Trades Unions, Carl Legien, president, and which has not functioned since the war started.

WHO GETS THE MONEY?

Washington, Aug. 9.—At a senate committee hearing on the high cost of living, E. A. Calvin, cotton authority, showed by illustrations that the farmer is not to blame for present prices. Mr. Calvin said the farmer received about $9 for the wheat that goes into a barrel of flour, which the baker turns into $22 and $34 worth of bread. He showed six yards of gingham cloth for which he paid $4.50, adding that the weight was 15 ounces and that some cotton grower received 25¼ cents for the cotton threin contained. He exhibited other cotton products, and pointed out that although the prices charged in the stores for these articles were exorbitant, the farmers' share is infinitesimal.

DO STRIKES PAY?

Ottawa, Ontario, Aug. 9.—The current issue of the Labor Gazette, issued by the government, prints a summary of the more important industrial agreements recently made, and also makes this comment:

"While the conclusion of every industrial agreement implies the acceptance, to a greater or less degree, of the principle of collective bargaining, it should not be overlooked that in a number of cases the agreement was reached only after the employes had been on strike."

REFERENDUM DENIED.

Boston, Aug. 9.—The anti-suffrage association of this state is denied the right of petition for a referendum on the state legislature's ratification of the equal suffrage amendment to the federal constitution.

The secretary of state rules that the ratification was a resolution and not a law. A section of the referendum amendment reads:

"A referendum petition may ask for a referendum to the people upon any law enacted by the general court (legislature) which is not expressly excluded."

LIVING COSTS IN CANADA.

Ottawa, Ontario, Aug. 9.—The Dominion department of labor reports that the average retail price of a list of 29 staple foods for some 60 cities in the middle of last month was $13.72, as compared with $12.52 at the middle of May; $12.79 in June, 1918, and $7.35 in June, 1914.

"STAND PAT" THEORY NO PART OF A. F. OF L.

Washington, Aug. 9.—Writing in the American Federationist, Matthew Woll, acting editor in the absence of President Gompers, laughs at the claim that the A. F. of L. is a "stand-pat" organization. He says "the American Federation of Labor lays no claim to being a conservative organization."

Eastern newspapers express sorrow at the action of the last A. F. of L. convention in denouncing injunction judges, and one editor declares that "the American Federation of Labor failed to display its usual good sense and conservatism." To this statement Mr. Woll says:

"It is for the defenders of the profiteers and plunderers and for those who are in need of all the machinery of reaction in their struggle against progress to build for themselves records of consistent conservatism. Labor has no use for any institution or arrangement which does not serve the best interests of all the people. It regards all institutions as having value only in so far as they serve the actual needs of the people.

"When it comes to ridding the country of institutions that no longer serve this purpose, there is no conservatism to be found in the American Federation of Labor. The American labor movement is a sternly radical movement and is the more radical by reason of the constructive character of its radicalism.

"Organized labor knows the injunction as an instrument in the hands of reactionaries and bourbons to crush the hope and ambition and struggle of the wage earners for a brighter day and a better life. The injunction loses all character as a proceeding in equity when it is used as an instrument for the suppression of constitutional rights.

"Labor firmly believes that the courts usurp certain powers which come into direct conflict with certain rights definitely and specifically guaranteed by the constitution of the United States and it admits to no institution and no set of men the right to abrogate any section or provision contained in that document.

"Labor regrets that certain newspapers have found it impossible to uphold the constitution in this respect. Labor would like to see the voice of the American people raised in unanimous demand that abrogation of the constitution and denial of the rights guaranteed by the constitution be ended forthwith and forever."

GETS RIGHT OF WAY.

Washington, Aug. 9.—Threats of a nation-wide strike of railroad shop men, together with wage demands of the four railroad brotherhoods has given the H. C. of L. the right of way at the national capital. The league of nations discussion has been sidetracked at the white house and cabinet officials and members of congress discuss the question of growing unrest and mounting living costs.

The flippant claim that high wages is responsible for present prices is no longer heard since the railroad workers demand that "wages must go up or living costs must come down."

A considerable element in congress would gladly dispose of the question by referring it to investigators that "the facts may be ascertained." This reliable old plan is given a different reception by workers than formerly, as they are now acquainted with the results of these investigations. Besides, the unrest refuses to subside. Remedies for present market prices range from prohibiting the exportation of foodstuffs to closing up the moving picture houses. The latter scheme was indirectly suggested by one southern senator, who declared that the movies and other "luxuries" are responsible to a large degree for present conditions.

MILLIONAIRES PITIED.

New York, Aug. 9.—The New York Times pities the millionaire because of increased taxes, which the editor infers is not passed on to the public.

"Profiteers," says the Times, "should be called to account, but if the workers use the increases they have received in unaccustomed and unnecessary indulgences their case is weakened. Everybody is feeling the pinch and sharing the blame for it, who is not reducing the cost of living as far as possible by individual action.

"The millionaires are doing so more than the workers. In every industry, in every land, there is clear proof that the wage earners are living more lavishly and the rich more frugally. The taxes have compelled the rich to do this.

"In addition to the enacted taxes the lavish spending of those overpaid beyond their experience lays a supertax upon the cost of living of everybody."

FAVOR LAND BILL.

Washington, Aug. 9.—The land bill favored by Secretary of the Interior Lane, and introduced in the house by Congressman Mondell, has been favorably reported by the public lands committee. In favoring the bill the committee said it would open the way to work and homes on the land for the nation's war veterans; provide for the development of large tracts of land now held by private owners and would provide temporary employment for large numbers of discharged soldiers and sailors while the land projects are being developed.

WIN THREE-YEARS' STRIKE.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 9.—The Milk Wagon Drivers' union has signed a contract with the Pevely Dairy company, after a three-years' fight. In 1916 this and other concerns attempted to smash the union and the venture started one of the bitterest contests in the labor history of this city. Union men were shot down by imported strikebreakers. The company concluded to make peace when a second strike started recently among its "unorganized" drivers.

SWEDISH SEAMEN RESTLESS.

Goteborg, Sweden, Aug. 9.—The Swedish parliament has sided with ship owners and against seamen who demand higher wages. The seamen say they will paralyze the overseas trade of the ship owning profiteers unless the demands of the union are complied with.

SHORTEN WORK WEEK.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 9.—Three large firms have signed a 44-hour-week agreement with the Boot and Shoe Workers' union. This is a reduction of six hours a week, with the same wage rates.

CAPITALISTS HIDE THEIR VAST HOLDINGS

Washington, Aug. 9.—While investigating the meat packing industry the federal trade commission uncovered a remarkable financial device which can completely hide the ownership of stocks and bonds. If this system comes into general use, the commission says, it can be used to evade the payment by corporations of income and other taxes to the government.

The device is known as a "bearer warrant," and is a receipt for a stock certificate. The certificate itself runs to the treasurer of the corporation and he issues a receipt, or warrant, for it. The warrant runs to "bearer" and the dividends can be collected and the stock actually voted without even the officers of the corporation knowing who the stockholder is.

The system was discovered by the commission in its search for the true ownership of certain Chicago stock yards interests and it prevented the commission from fully determining the identity of the real stockholders.

The Chicago yards, yard railways and adjacent real estate development are operated by companies whose stock is owned by the Chicago Junction railways and the Union Stock Yards company of New Jersey, which in turn is controlled by the Chicago Stock Yards company of Maine. "Bearer warrants" for 19.4 per cent of the Maine company stock have been identified as belonging to J. Ogden Armour, president of Armour & Co., one of the "big five" meat packers.

The commission found that Armour exchanged $194,000 in cash for $1,552,000 of stock in the Maine company. Up to the year 1917 he has drawn in dividends $152,950 more than his investment.

H. C. OF L. CAUSES UNREST.

Chicago, Aug. 9.—The high cost of living is responsible for industrial unrest and domestic suffering, reports a commission appointed by Mayor Thompson to investigate local conditions. An appeal for relief has been forwarded to the Illinois delegation in congress.

It is significant that the causes for high costs do not include "high" wages. In the judgment of the commission, the causes are: Exportation of food to Europe in excess of domestic surplus; profiteering by speculators; hoarders who withdraw food from consumption during the producing season in excess of normal requirements and later throw it on the market at exorbitant prices; resales within the same trade during interstate commerce; fictitious sales to enhance prices; wasteful practices by common carriers during transportation; illegal monopolistic combinations.

Another investigation is being conducted by the Anti-Profiteering league, whose chairman, Mrs. William C. Keogh, said:

"I know the working people. I know the conditions under which they struggle. I am satisfied from our investigation there would have been no strikes in Chicago had the cost of living kept within the bounds of reason. The working people have been forced to demand more wages and the pitiful part about it is that a few weeks after their wages have been increased the cost of living is boosted and they are no better off than they were before."

CO-OPS ABROAD.

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Aug. 9.—The Farmers' and Graziers' Cooperative Grain Insurance and Agency company has purchased the business of a large operator in wool and live stock. Last year the co-operative company handled 55 per cent of the New South Wales harvest. Its latest purchase is for the purpose of dispensing with the middlemen's tolls in the sale of wool and live stock.

Helsingfors, Finland, Aug. 9.—Last year the five principal co-operative societies in Finland sold $57,000,000 worth of products and made $1,500,000 profits. The largest of these movements, the Finnish Co-operative Wholesale society, operates a number of manufacturing establishments, including coffee roasting plants and fruit canneries. It imports direct from the manufacturer.

These societies have a chain of banks subsidized by the government to assist in the development of the co-operative theory.

PRAISE VS. PORK CHOPS.

Cleveland, Ohio, Aug. 9.—Editor Cease of the Railroad Trainman, official magazine of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, declares that railroad employes are willing to trade words of praise received during the war for pork chops. He says:

"We have had our fill of generalities and kind words of what a mighty factor we were in winning the war. They pay for no pork chops. And, besides, we have a suspicion that they are all true. What we want now is time and one-half for overtime and a wage that will let us earn enough in six eight-hour days to live well and comfortably for seven 24-hour days.

"We stand ready to swap all the nice things that may be said of us for the things we need."

FIGHT FOR OIL MARKETS.

New York, Aug. 9.—The Annalist, financial paper, says the Standard Oil company of New Jersey is preparing for a fight for world oil markets, and hints that Uncle Sam's assistance would be most welcome. It is stated that Dutch interests are strongly entrenched in California, Oklahoma and Mexican oil fields, and are developing South America. Standard Oil and Dutch both had large interests in Roumania but these were destroyed by the English armies to prevent their use by the then successful Germans who were conquering that country.

WAITERS WIN STRIKE.

Wheeling, W. Va., Aug. 9.—Recently-organized waiters, waitresses and cooks won a strike for better conditions that lasted less than two days. When these workers were being organized, their employers gave notice that "a union will not be tolerated." The union was launched, however, and the bosses have accepted it.

RE-ELECT FLINT OFFICERS.

Bellaire, Ohio, Aug. 9.—The annual convention of the American Flint Glass Workers' union re-elected President Clarke and other officials. Substantial wage increases were demanded and Atlantic City was chosen for the next convention.

NATIONALIZED ROADS IS BEFORE CONGRESS

Washington, Aug. 9.—Congressman Sims of Tennessee, former chairman of the house interstate and foreign commerce committee, has introduced a bill which embodies the railroad employes' plan to nationalize the railroads.

The bill provides for operation of the roads by a commission of 15, to be chosen as follows: Five appointed by the president, five by operating officials and five by the employes. Wages will be set by a subordinate board. The interstate commerce commission will retain its present rate-making powers.

One of the fixed charges of the roads under this system will be a sinking fund, the money to be eventually used to retire bonds now privately held, the roads thereby becoming the property of the people.

After all charges are met, profits will be divided on a 50-50 per cent basis between the government and the operators. The government's 50 per cent will be used in extensions, improvements or other developments and the operators' 50 per cent will be divided pro rata among them on the basis of wages or salaries received.

The plan provides that the only basis of valuating the railroads is to ascertain the amount of money each corporation put into the actual service of the public. The amount will represent the property interest which the corporation has been granted in the public highways to which it holds title. This feature of the plan will be attacked most vigorously by private interests as its success would squeeze untold millions of dollars of watered stock from these properties, and on which the public is forced to pay interest.

New York, Aug. 9.—Leading newspapers in this city have wasted no time in attacking the railroad solution offered by employes of these properties. The New York Times says these employes "may" be sincere. It also declares that no political party "will be cowardly enough or reckless enough to invite disaster by yielding to this demand."

The Washington correspondent of the New York World seems to think that lawmakers make great changes in a nation's life without being forced to take this action. The correspondent gravely announces that "the leaders" in congress are showing decided opposition to labor's plan for government ownership of the railroads.

METAL POLISHERS GAIN.

Cincinnati, Aug. 9.—A large number of recent gains by organized metal polishers are announced by officers of that international union.

The Hamilton-Beach Manufacturing company, at Racine, Wis., has signed a union shop agreement which calls for the eight-hour day and an 80-cent minimum. The president of this concern made this statement to the Racine Journal-News:

"The Hamilton-Beach strike is settled and you can add that the strikers won a complete victory. We granted every one of their demands and from now on we are going to be the best co-operative plant in America. We are simply going to play the game with labor."

Utica, N. Y., Aug. 9.—The Savage Arms company has increased wages of its union metal polishers from 45 cents to 60 cents an hour for day work. Piece work rates are proportionately advanced.

Cleveland, Aug. 9.—A large number of shops have signed the new wage agreement of Metal Polishers' union No. 2. Rates are advanced 21 cents an hour, or $40 for a week of 48 hours.

PHONY SICK THERMOMETERS.

Washington, Aug. 9.—The United States bureau of standards warns the public against manufacturers who sell clinical thermometers with a certificate that these thermometers have been tested by the government. The clinical thermometer is the fundamental measuring instrument of the physician and is used in the sick room. The government submits the thermometers it buys to rigid tests, but manufacturers themselves test these sold to physicians and the public, with a misleading certificate so worded as to give the impression that the instrument has been tested by the bureau of standards.

"As such instruments are nearly always of the cheapest and least reliable kind, a great deal of harm is done," says the bureau.

Legislation will be sought to curb the manufacturers.

THIS BOSS IS WORRIED.

Harvey, Ill., Aug. 9.—Employes of the Buda company, manufacturers of railroad supplies, are discussing trade unionism, and the manager "takes his pen in hand." Result: Long letter to said employes that the plant will be operated on the "open shop" basis, that any and every employe with a grievance will be listened to and therefore it is not necessary for them to be fussing around trade unionists, which at best is an expense in these days of H. C. of L.

The manager cannot understand why his "hands" attended a meeting and listened to a discussion of conditions at the Buda plant by men who are not on the pay roll of the company.

22 CENTS WILL BREAK 'EM.

Madison, Wis., Aug. 9.—The recent order that no woman shall be paid less than 22 cents an hour in this state is protested by some manufacturers, who claim they are facing ruin and starvation. The state industrial commission will listen to the tales of woe, but in the meantime the 22-cent rate must be observed.

PAPER WORKERS GAIN.

Brainerd, Minn., Aug. 9.—Paper mill workers have secured wage increases as a result of conferences with employers. Paper makers are advanced 15 per cent, the increase to date from May 11 last. Pulp and other workers are increased from 5 to 10 cents an hour.

CO-OPS PAY DIVIDENDS.

Tovy, Ill., Aug. 9.—The Co-operative society reports that during the last quarter its sales amounted to $7,480.54, and that it paid a dividend of 5 per cent to their members on the amount of purchases made.

METAL WORKERS GAIN.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 9.—The Fulton Iron Works company has raised wages 5 cents an hour for 450 machinists, blacksmiths and helpers.

High Cost Of Living May Force Nation Wide R. R. Shop Strike

Washington, Aug. 9.—A desire to re-establish pre-war living standards has increased the solidarity between 500,000 organized shop men and the four railroad brotherhoods. These organizations have worked in complete harmony with the railroad administration since government operation of railroads, but for the first time they stand against the policy of the railroad administration and have notified Director General of Railroads Hines to this effect.

The employes object to Mr. Hines' latest solution of wage demands that have been pending for several months. He now favors congress creating a commission to adjust wages, with a mandate to the interstate commerce commission to raise railroad rates if necessary. The director general submitted this plan to President Wilson who forwarded it to congress with the suggestion that the lawmakers forego their proposed recess and pass the necessary legislation and also act on the high cost of living. As the suggestion is equivalent to a command it was treated as such by congress.

Officers of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department and the railroad brotherhoods have rejected Mr. Hines' plan on the ground that the board of adjustment of the railroad administration is equipped to handle the case and that the creation of a new commission means more delay. The workers are suspicious of any attempt by congress to set their wages and are inquiring if this scheme could not be developed into compulsory legislation. Director Hines denies this, but the railroad men will take no chances.

The shop men show that they have received no wage increase since January 1, 1918, when they were nearly brought up to the level of similar craftsmen employed elsewhere. They now ask for a minimum of 85 cents an hour for mechanics, 60 cents for helpers and an increase of 10 cents an hour for apprentices. This is approximately a 25 per cent increase, to date back to January 1, 1919.

Wage demands of the railroad brotherhoods are more complicated because of their working conditions.

The shop men presented their demand on January 7 last. One month later the matter was referred to the board of adjustment of the railroad administration. Hearings were held during March and April, and on July 16 the board of adjustment made its recommendation to Director General of Railroads Hines, who held a conference with the shop men on July 28. The employes then believed this official would make a decision. Instead, he recommends that congress act. This has been rejected and a nation-wide strike now threatens.

Many strikes have started in various sections of the country by workers who have become impatient while their officials resorted to every method to settle the matter peaceably. Many of these strikers are returning to work and are voting on the strike proposal submitted to them in a legal way by officers of the railway employes' department. The votes are returnable not later than Aug. 24.

PREPARE FOR LABOR MEET.

Washington, Aug. 9.—The senate has passed a joint resolution introduced by Mr. Kenyon in which the president is authorized to call a general international labor conference, to be held in this city next October. In the treaty of peace, now before the senate, request is made that the government of the United States take such action.

If the invitations to various nations and other essentials are postponed until the senate acts on the treaty it is feared that the date of the proposed meeting will have passed.

Under the resolution the president cannot appoint any delegate to represent this country or to authorize this country to participate in the conference "unless and until the senate shall have ratified the provisions of the said proposed treaty of peace with reference to such general international labor conference."

Senate opponents of the treaty of peace voted for the resolution with the understanding that it did not affect their position on the major question.

TENEMENTS THRIVE.

New York, Aug. 9.—The tenement reform law of 1901 has had little effect in this city, reports the reconstruction commission of the state of New York after a survey of the older tenement section in this city. It is declared that "the only way the last of these old-law tenements will ever disappear will be from natural causes, such as fire, collapse or abandonment by tenants."

In one block the committee found as many as five persons sleeping in one room, often three and four in one bed. In this block 2,714 persons live, of whom 561 are children under 5 years. Conditions generally were found very bad. The predominant occupation of the wage earners, living in the tenements, was shown to be garment work, such as tailoring and pressing. Day laborers and longshoremen constituted the next largest proportion. Many of the women earn from $20 to $30 a month by sewing at home for factories with the children cutting the button holes or employed at similar tasks.

SUGAR HOARDERS BUSY.

New York, Aug. 9.—Evidence that food profiteers have entered into a conspiracy to hoard sugar preparatory to raising prices at least 3 cents a pound was obtained by Deputy Commissioner of Markets O'Malley, who said that he has discovered that brokers controlling the sugar market have entered into a hoarding combine while he was investigating dealings in army supplies.

The official declared that although the government recently released 37,000,000 pounds of sugar for public purchase in an effort to relieve the sugar shortage, it is impossible to buy sugar in large quantities at almost any price. He said it was intimated that some of the government's sugar has fallen into the hands of the profiteers.

BENEFITS AWARDED.

Quebec, Canada, Aug. 9.—The superior court has awarded compensation benefits to an injured employe of the Canadian Pacific Railway company, although the court held that the employe was imprudent in attempting to cross a railroad track in front of an engine. The company claimed that the accident was due entirely to the employe's fault and would not have occurred had he exercised ordinary reasonable care. To this the court agreed, but it ruled that the fact of his employment gave him the right to make a claim under the workmen's compensation act.

WILL FINANCE BUREAU.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 9.—Municipal authorities announce that the city treasury is "broke," and it will be impossible to maintain the local office of the United States employment service. Officers of the trades and labor council offer to loan the city sufficient funds to maintain this service, which is urged by every class of citizens but the Manufacturers' association.

PRESSMEN GAIN.

Huntington, W. Va., Aug. 9.—Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union has secured wage increases that range from $2.50 to $5.50 a week.

Lawrence, Mass., Aug. 9.—A new wage scale negotiated by Pressmen and Assistants' union increases the rate for commercial pressmen $6 a week; $4 to $8 for web pressmen and $5 to $7 for apprentice pressmen.

FIREMEN WANT MORE.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 9.—Stationary Firemen's union No. 2 asks that these rates be established in the city water works: $1 an hour for oilers, firemen, boiler washers and maintenance men and $125 a month for coal passers.

POOR MOTHERS DEFENDED.

Washington, Aug. 9.—Miss Julia C. Lathrop of the federal children's bureau defends poor mothers who are charged with ignorance in the care of their children. In justifying her position Miss Lathrop quotes Sir Arthur Newsholme, medical officer of the English local government board:

"Maternal ignorance is sometimes regarded as a chief factor in the causation of excessive child mortality. It is a comfortable doctrine for the well-to-do person to adopt, and it goes far to relieve his conscience in the contemplation of excessive suffering and mortality among the poor.

"There is little reason to believe that the average ignorance in matters of health of the working class mother is much greater than that of mothers in other classes of society. But the ignorance of the working class mother is dangerous, because it is related with relative social helplessness. To remedy this, what is needed is that the environment of the infant of the poor should be leveled up toward that of the infant of the well-to-do, and that medical advice and nursing should be made available for the poor as promptly as it is for persons of higher social status."

WHY SEAMEN STRIKE.

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, Aug. 9.—The higher wage strike of seamen and their refusal to go before the compulsory arbitration court has stirred Mr. Justice Higgins of that court, who blames American and British seamen for this trouble.

"What has really stirred the union to make such a claim is an abnormal rise in rates for seamen in America as well as in Great Britain," says the court. "On the Pacific coast, as well as on the Atlantic coast, the rate for able bodied seamen is £15 ($75) per month, as contrasted with the Australian rate of £11 ($55), and when the men meet in ports the contrast is disturbing."

Justice Higgins is also opposed to some of the working conditions demands of the seamen, who are asking for electric lights and decent sleeping quarters. The seamen say they are no longer satisfied with a bare living wage and they want some of the $35,000,000 excess profits the ship owners made during the war.

STREET CAR STRIKE ENDS.

Chicago, Aug. 9.—By a majority of less than 400 out of a total vote of over 12,000, striking street car men in this city have accepted a compromise which they had formerly rejected at a meeting. The original demand was 85 cents an hour for surface men and 87 cents for elevated men. The compromise calls for 65 and 67 cents.

Olean, N. Y., Aug. 9.—Motormen and conductors on the local street car line have organized with a charter list that numbers nearly 150.

Clarksburg, W. Va., Aug. 9.—Organized motormen and conductors have secured wage increases of from 5 to 8 cents an hour and a union shop agreement. The new rates date back to July 1.

STRIKES CUT PROFIT.

Washington, Aug. 9.—Other countries have their strike troubles, according to John E. Cushing, who testified before the house merchant marine committee. The witness is acting director of the shipping board's bureau of operations. He said strikes in European and South American ports are handicapping the American merchant marine to such an extent that it is doubtful if profits can be maintained. "The extremely high cost of living" was blamed for this condition.

MAY BUY REAL COAL.

Washington, Aug. 9.—The United States bureau of standards is experimenting with a device for testing the heating value of coal and other fuels. The government and large commercial concerns now pay for coal, not according to its weight, but according to its heating capacity. The benefits of the new device have not as yet been passed to the individual consumer, who pays for the rocks, slate and all.

ALLAN STUDHOLME IS DEAD.

Hamilton, Canada, Aug. 9.—Allan Studholme, the sole labor representative in the legislature of this province, is dead. He was born in England in 1846, and was first elected to the Ontario legislature 10 years ago. He was never known to be recreant to the trust reposed in him by the workers. He was a member of the Stove Mounters' union.

POTTERY WORKERS UNITE.

Bedford, Ohio, Aug. 9.—Pottery workers at this place have organized an affiliate of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters.